

Biography

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Ted Scharf

Ted Scharf, Ph.D., is a Research Psychologist at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

Scharf conducts research, interventions and training evaluations focusing on hazardous work environments in the construction and agriculture industries and in emergency response. He has been fortunate to work with NIOSH colleagues in the mining industry as well. The central focus of his work is the dual-attention demand (for both productivity and safety) that is required of workers in [constantly changing, hazardous work environments](#). Recent focus groups and curriculum development with ironworkers have taken place in a participatory action-research format. This approach emphasizes “practice-to-research,” as advocated by the [NIOSH r2p program](#). His most recent study is a training evaluation in hazard recognition with ironworker apprentices. The hazard recognition curriculum has been disseminated to more than 50 ironworker locals throughout North America during two [summer training programs for ironworker instructors](#). The curriculum is anticipated to be presented again in the 2014 summer training program.



Scharf leads the recently established Safety Climate and Culture Working Group under the [Work Organization and Stress -Related Disorders cross-sector program](#) within the NIOSH program portfolio. He also leads an intervention evaluation competition for the bi-annual [Work, Stress and Health Conference](#), co-sponsored by the American Psychological Association, NIOSH and the Society for Occupational Health Psychology.

He received his Ph.D. in 1995 from the School of Social Ecology, University of California, Irvine, with an emphasis in environmental psychology and quasi-experimental research methodology.

[NIOSH](#) was created by the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, the same legislation that initiated the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). OSHA was placed in the Department of Labor and regulates occupational safety and health throughout the United States. NIOSH was placed in the Department of Health and Human Services (formerly Health, Education and Welfare) and is charged with conducting research and making recommendations regarding occupational safety and health issues (both unregulated and regulated topics).